1: Jochelson E-5 (1900-01) 1908 RY4 Koryak RY4

or larch boards, about half a metre long and 15–20 cm. in width, planed off with an adze. On the reverse side, figures representing human beings and animals, and other ornaments, are carved out with a knife.[1] The small pieces of white and black fur for making up patterns on clothing and rugs are cut on small ornamented boards with a wide notch in the middle, on which are wound the embroidered fur strips for trimming coats.[2]

Fig. 152 represents an ornamented double wooden trinket-box with a connecting hollow bar around which embroidered fur strips are wound. The two small boxes serve for holding needle-cases, thimbles, slittingtool, patterns, and other trifles. The wooden lids are fastened to the outer sides of the boxes with leather strips instead of hinges. They are closed by a sinew-thread which passes from one lid to the other through the hollow bridge connecting the two boxes.

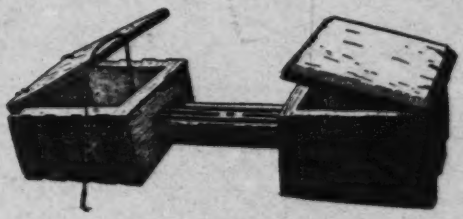

Fig. 152 ($\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{1}\frac{1}{2}$). Carved Trinket-Box. Length 30.3 cm.

Thread is still made of reindeer-sinew. For sewing-purposes the thin threads of the dorsal sinews are used, while the thick sinews taken from the legs serve to make ropes for netting and for basket-weaving. The sinew is pounded with a stone hammer on a stone table, and combed like flax with a bone comb; then threads or ropes of the desired thickness are twisted out of the thin fibre thus obtained.

Plate XXXVII shows women of the Maritime Koryak sitting sewing and cutting by the dim light of an oil lamp. On the right side a boy is sitting on the log which separates the sleeping-space from the middle of the house; a girl with her sewing, and a woman with a child, are sitting behind the log, on skins, under the raised cover of the sleeping-tent. On the left are seated a girl, and a woman with a cutting-board. Above are hanging clothes, foot-wear, and a fur rug. The sewing of reindeer-skin rugs will be described later on.[3]

DYES. — The Koryak use a variety of dyes for dyeing skins, animal hair or fur for ornaments, and thread for weaving bags and baskets. For black or dark dyes they employ sea-mud, a decoction of swamp-moss and pounded coal mixed with fish-glue, or a decoction of berries of *Empetrum nigrum* with burned grass of *Elymus mollis*. With the first two is dyed the bark of the willow-herb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), of which bags are woven. Previous to being twisted into thread, this bark is soaked in sea-mud gathered on the coast after high tide, or in a hot decoction of swamp-moss.

[1] See Fig. 194. [2] See Fig. 196, *a*, *b*. [3] See Chapter XI.

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386 Pounded coal mixed with fish-glue is used for coloring sledge-stanchions, engravings on bone carvings, sinew and nettle thread, and sometimes wood-carvings.[1] A decoction of cranberry with ashes of *Elymus mollis* is used in dyeing black the strips and pieces of ringed-seal skins and of the thin skin from dogs' necks, which are used for ornamenting clothing.

Red dyes of various hues are made of ochre, alder-bark, and of berries of *Empetrum nigrum*. Ochre is used also as a paint, — either dry (for instance, in painting the cheeks of wooden masks[2]), or dissolved in water. Alder-bark serves mainly for dyeing dressed reindeer-hides, from which clothing is made to be worn with the fur side in. Dressed skins are rubbed with it, or it is boiled in water and the skin is soaked in the hot decoction. In the former case an uneven reddish dye results; in the latter, a bright even cinnamon color is obtained. Special skill is required for this process. Expert workers are found among the Maritime Koryak women, who know how to lay a very showy bright cinnamon hue on skin. After being treated with hot alder-dye, the skin hardens, and must be rubbed afresh to render it soft.

281 Dressing of Skins and Cutting of Thongs. — In the Koryak household, dressing of skins and cutting of thongs are important occupations, as all of the clothing is made of skins, which must first be dressed; while thongs are needed not only for lines, breast-collars, lassoes, harness, etc., but also for tying together sleds, for nets, and for many other necessities.

[462] The dressing of skins is the task of women, while thongs are cut by men. The methods employed in both these industries are identical among the Koryak and Chukchee, and for the description of details the reader is referred to Bogoras's work on the Chukchee.[3] I will only remark that in certain places these occupations develop into home industries. This is particularly true of the making of thongs. Strong thongs are obtained only from sea-animals. Accordingly the Maritime Koryak manufacture them, and exchange thongs of ringed-seal and walrus-hide with the Reindeer Koryak.

285 Basket-Work. — The bags and sacks made of seal-hides and reindeer-skin have been spoken of before (see p. 607). Here I shall confine myself to a description of the manufacture of woven bags and baskets. Like the manufacture of clothing, weaving is the occupation of women, and it is developed chiefly among the Maritime Koryak. The material for weaving is quite varied. The roots of different species of willow, the wild rye (*Elymus mollis;* Koryak, tu'wai), willow-herb grass (*Epilobium angustifolium;* Koryak, me'nmet or me'nmetan), nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.), thread from reindeer-sinew, and imported twine, are used.

Willow-roots, previous to weaving, are soaked in warm water, by which process flexible white rods are obtained. The stems of the *Elymus mollis*

[1] See for instance, the wooden dog (Fig. 178, *a*) dyed in black.
[2] See Part I, p. 84.
[3] See Bogoras, The Chukchee, Vol. VII of this series, pp. 217, 218.

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285 415 [386]

with two straw threads. This method of weaving produces a texture dense, waterproof, and yet flexible and not coarse. Fig. 162 shows three baskets woven by this method. The ornamentation of these sacks is obtained by weaving in threads of *Epilobium angustifolium* dyed black. In *a* the threads from this grass have been dyed in a decoction of swamp-moss. To this dye is added a little fish-oil, which gives it a glossy hue. Bags woven in the way here described vary in size. They are used chiefly as women's work-bags. In the majority of cases the upper part (a third or a half) of the

Fig. 162, *a* (⅛), *b* (⅛), *c* (⅛). Water-tight Baskets. Height, 20 cm., 17 cm., 8.5 cm.

bag consists of reindeer or seal skin stitched to the woven part, as shown in *a* and *b*. Around Penshina Bay the Koryak women, among whom I collected all the above-described specimens of basket-work, do not weave (at least at present) any grass mats; but the Koryak of northern Kamchatka, like the Kamchadal, make grass mats. Fig. 163 represents a grass basket for berries, of the Koryak of northern Kamchatka, which is of cylindrical shape, and is made in twined weaving. In neatness, workmanship, and ornamentation, the basket recalls the best specimens of Indian basketry of the North Pacific coast.

285 Mr. Bogoras has collected in northern Kamchatka a few grass bags which show a different technique. They are made throughout of braids of grass. The bottom is formed by a long narrow strip of skin, to one end of which